THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 846,302,688 as per 1991 Census.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below) :

Year	Budgetary Provisions (Rs. in Lakhs)
1990-91	68,484
1991-92	86,511
1992-93	105,130

As per SRS estimates, natural growth rate of population in the country has declined from 2.03% in 1989 to 1.90% (provisional) in 1992.

Statement

(i) The population growth rate at the time of independence was about 1.25% per annum.

(ii) & (iii)

Census Period	Average Annual Exponential Growth Rate (M)
1901—11	0.56%
1911—21	—0.03%
1921—31	1.04
1931—41	1.33
1941—51	1.25%
1951—61	1.96%
1961—71	2.20%
1971—81	2.22%
1981—91	2.14%
1992(SRS)	1.90$

$Natural Growth Rate obtained as difference between annual Sample Registration System (SRS) birth and death rates estimates (provisional).

Development of Ayurveda

1109. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the remarks of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India while inaugurating the 54th plenary session of the All India Ayurved Congress in Nagpur that there is need to strengthen the traditional stream of medicine by compiling all knowledge lying scattered in bits and pieces across the country ;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to create a separate Ministry for Ayurveda to ensure speedier development of this science; and

(c) how the teachers and practitioners are to be encouraged to bring about a certain standardisation of their curricula and profession ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Steps are being taken for organisational strengthening at the Central level and increased allocations for schemes for the development of Ayurveda

(c) The Central Council of Indian Medicine has been set up to regulate and enforce standards of education.

1110. [*Transferred to the 17th March, 1994*].

Spread of Aids in the Country

1111. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world Health Organisation has stated that AIDS should be declared a public health emergency in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per the report of the WHO, the AIDS is spreading in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the spread of this disease ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The spread of HIV transmission in the country has been causing concern.

(c) The strategy to prevent and control the spread of epidemic consists of generation of awareness among the public, especially the high risk behaviour groups for safe sex; promotion of blood safety and rational use of blood; prevention and control of sexually